

the President's bill is unfair and wrong. It is punitive and hurtful toward our Nation's seniors and should be repealed. The last Congress sent to the President legislation to repeal the Social Security provisions, but the President stood by his original plan and it did not pass. Nevertheless, this issue is not resolved as far as I am concerned. We must address this issue, which is why I have introduced the language in this legislation to repeal the onerous 1993 tax increase on our seniors. This bill is very simple. It does these three things. It is common sense and fair. Simply altering a few necessary portions of our Tax Code, it would help all Americans and give a fair and level playing field. Best of all, every penny in reduced revenue is offset by reductions in the funds available to the Department of Commerce and the Department of Energy. This is a small but important step forward in the debate over our Nation's future. This is legislation we cannot afford to live without.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this bill. It is imperative for our country's present and future generations that we address these issues today.

RECOGNIZING MARIAN ANDERSON ON CENTENNIAL OF HER BIRTH

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. JENKINS). Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from Texas [Ms. JACKSON-LEE] is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, let me first of all thank my friend and colleague and ranking member of the Science Committee for the diversity of his portfolio, and, that is, to come to the floor to celebrate a very famous but eloquent and certainly musical American, and that is in the name of Marian Anderson.

I thank the gentleman from California [Mr. BROWN] for allowing to join him in a tribute on a very special day here in Washington. Certainly as I was coming to the floor, I took advantage of the beautiful sunshine, albeit quite chilly here in Washington DC, and it caused me to be reminded of that famous day some years ago, April 9, when the first lady of music, contralto Marian Anderson, ascended the steps of the Lincoln Memorial and began to sing not to the 75,000 that were present but to the world and to the Nation. Her dignity and her ability to communicate in song clearly is worth giving tribute to, and I appreciate this opportunity to do so.

As I look over her history and we were able to acknowledge today at the Congressional Black Caucus meeting this day and this effort, we looked at her history. Certainly she came from a very proud family. She graduated from high school. You might consider her, as W.E.B. Du Bois described many in the early days of this century, the talented tenth. She was certainly someone

whose family, albeit she was born an African-American in this Nation, had great hopes and aspirations for her. They had great dreams for her as an American, as a talented young woman.

Sadly, of course, she grew up in the shadow of Jim Crow. But her spirit was undaunted by the atmosphere of what she lived, and the God-given talent that she had was one that she wanted to share with all to hear. She was initially, of course, extended an invitation to speak in a facility that later became known as white-only, that she could not sing. But good Americans, well-thinking Americans who recognized the value of diversity and the importance of a talent in an eloquent woman as Marian Anderson should be heard.

And so this tribute that I give is as well to Marian for her talent but for the good Americans who rallied around the excitement that she had to be able to convey to America that we all stand as one.

Mr. Speaker, my tribute today, as I bring it to a close, is to congratulate the life and legacy of Marian Anderson. I wish that I could conclude this by a musical salute that all could hear, but I was moved by the moment and moved by the history of that moment, having not been there or been around to have heard it, but certainly all those who have been able to tell me of it pay great tribute to how she brought the country together, recognizing the value of our great history, of African-Americans but as well the history of all the good people who allowed her to so sing.

Let me conclude by sharing some of my time with the gentleman from California [Mr. BROWN] for him to bring some final remarks and say that on this day that the proposition 209 was again reaffirmed. I would ask that we look to the good people of America to recognize that diversity is legal and that Marian Anderson represented that diversity some many years ago.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from California [Mr. BROWN].

Mr. BROWN of California. I thank the gentlewoman for yielding. I want to thank her very much for coming to the floor and adding her contribution to this tribute to Marian Anderson.

In closing this special order this afternoon, I would just like to say how honored I am to join with all of my colleagues honoring the centennial of the birth of Marian Anderson. During the long journey of her life, as has been mentioned and despite her unique achievements, Marian Anderson nevertheless encountered bigotry throughout her career. She met it all with unparalleled dignity, quietly refusing to back down from her rights, to forsake her own standard of politeness or to hold any grudges.

One can lose a lot of time hating people, she succinctly explained. As you remember, President Clinton urged in his State of the Union Address this year that Americans must continu-

ously fight bigotry and intolerance. To follow the example set by Marian Anderson, I would like to close this special order this afternoon by quoting what she saw was the mission of her life, and I quote: "To leave behind me the kind of impression that will make it easier for those who follow."

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

By unanimous consent, leave of absence was granted to:

Ms. CARSON (at the request of Mr. GEPHARDT), for today, on account of illness.

Mr. WATTS of Oklahoma (at the request of Mr. ARMEY), for yesterday and today, on account of family illness.

Mr. SCHIFF (at the request of Mr. ARMEY), for today and the balance of the week, on account of medical reasons.

Mr. PORTER (at the request of Mr. ARMEY), for today, on account of personal reasons.

SPECIAL ORDERS GRANTED

By unanimous consent, permission to address the House, following the legislative program and any special orders heretofore entered, was granted to:

(The following Members (at the request of Mr. SHIMKUS) to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material:)

Mr. BRADY, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. GOSS, for 5 minutes each day, today and on April 10.

Mr. BONO, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. JONES, for 5 minutes each day, on April 15 and 16.

Mr. PAUL, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. WELDON of Florida, for 5 minutes, today.

(The following Members (at their own request) to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material:)

Mr. DREIER, for 5 minutes, today.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. STEARNS, for 5 minutes, today.

Ms. KAPTUR, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. RUSH, for 5 minutes, today.

EXTENSION OF REMARKS

By unanimous consent, permission to revise and extend remarks was granted to:

(The following Members (at the request of Mr. PALLONE) to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material:)

Mr. KUCINICH.

Mr. MCGOVERN.

Mr. HAMILTON.

Mr. PICKETT.

Mrs. MALONEY of New York.

Mr. STARK.

Ms. FURSE.

Ms. KAPTUR.

Mrs. MEEK of Florida.

Mr. POMEROY.

Mr. LIPINSKI.